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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1966

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Divisional Medical Officer,
David Street,
Castle,
NORTHWICH,
Cheshire.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1966

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1966

Chairman of the Council: Councillor J.A. Powell J.P.

HEALTH AND SEWERAGE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Councillor J.E. Garner.

COUNCILLORS

Councillor J.D.Blease
Councillor T.Broad
Councillor T.C.Costello
Councillor H.Dale
Councillor F.Dodd
Councillor W.Faulkner
Councillor N.M.Gill
Councillor J.Hamlett
Councillor W.Healey
Councillor G.J.F.Stallard

and the above Chairman.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Northwich Rural District Council, Northwich Urban District Council and Winsford Urban District Council

and Divisional Medical Officer to the Mid-Cheshire Division

Public Health Inspector

F. Costello

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

Telephone No. :
Northwich 4251

Hartford Hill,
David Street,
NORTHWICH,
Cheshire.

June, 1967

To the Chairman and Members of the
Middlewich Urban District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1966.

For the information of Members I enclose my Annual Report to the Divisional Health Committee.

I would once again like to express my appreciation to Mr. Costello and the Council's Chief Officers for their co-operation and help during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

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SECTION I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

(1) GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (estimated Mid-year 1966)	7,910
Area (acres of District)	1,971
Number of inhabited dwellings	2,650
Rateable Value of area	£274,741
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1966/67	1,036

Comparative Statistics - 1965/66

	Year	
	1965	1966
Population (Estimated)	7,730	7,910
Rateable Value	£268,212	£266,658
Product of Penny Rate (Estimated)	£1,036	£1,036
Number of inhabited dwellings	2,603	2,650

(2) VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Males	Females	Total	England and Wales
Legitimate	76	84	160	
Illegitimate	4	3	7	
	80	87	167	

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	21.1	
+Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 1.05)	22.1	17.7
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total births	4.1	

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
	Nil	Nil	Nil

Infant Deaths	Males	Females	Total
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	1	2	3
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	1	2	3
Deaths of infants under 1 week of age	1	2	3

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births ...	18.0	19.0

+see Page 2.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Maternal Deaths .. .. Nil

Deaths	Males	Females	Total	England and Wales
All causes	39	37	76	
Death Rate per 1,000 population	-	-	9.6	11.7
+Corrected Death per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 1.16) ..	-	-	11.1	

+NOTE: The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

Causes of Death

As will be seen from the following table the two principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation which caused approximately 49% of the deaths, and cancer which caused approximately 20%.

	Males	Females	Total
1. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1	3
2. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	2
3. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
4. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
5. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	1	5
6. Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	7	12
7. Coronary disease, angina	8	5	13
8. Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
9. Other heart disease	4	7	11
10. Bronchitis	3	1	4
11. Congenital malformations	-	1	1
12. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	6	13
13. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
14. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
15. Suicide	2	-	2
	39	37	76

SECTION II

HEALTH SERVICES.

(1) Information concerning the statutory and voluntary Health and Welfare Services in the area are given in the enclosed report of the Divisional Medical Officer. Further details may be obtained from the Divisional Medical Office, David Street, Northwich. Telephone number - Northwich 4251.

(2) HOSPITAL FACILITIES

The Middlewich Urban District lies within the area of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board whose offices are at Cheetwood Road, Manchester, 8. Telephone number - Deansgate 7271.

(3) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens and samples taken by the Health Department are submitted for examination to the Chester Public Health Laboratory.

(4) AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service is provided by the County Council and is under radio control from central control at County Hall, Chester. All 999 calls made by members of the public are immediately connected to this central control. The arrangement for non-urgent calls is that the patient or general practitioner should ring the Northwich Depot - Telephone number : Northwich 3355.

SECTION III

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951

Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacited, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

With regard to the expeditious procedure as laid down in the National Assistance (Ammendment) Act, 1951, the Medical Officer of Health or any duly qualified person acting for the Medical Officer of Health is authorised by the Council to make the requisite application to a Justice of the Peace.

Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

It was not necessary to take any action under either of these Sections during the year.

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(1) NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following are the infectious diseases notified for the year 1965 and 1966:

DISEASE	Cases Notified	
	1965	1966
Measles	4	105
Whooping Cough	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1
Pneumonia	-	1

SECTION V

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) WATER SUPPLY

The water supply is provided by the Mid & South East Cheshire Water Board whose offices are at Weaverham Grange, Hartford, near Northwich.

The water supplied to the district was satisfactory in quantity and does not have a plumbo-solvent action. During the year 16 samples were taken by the Water Board and 8 by our own Health Department. All were bacteriologically satisfactory.

There are no dwellinghouses in the district supplied by means of standpipes.

(2) SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government gave approval in principle to the Council's scheme for the provision of a new sewage works and the renewal of sewers where necessary. This decision followed the local investigation by the Ministry Inspector in 1965 and subsequently the Council's Consulting Engineers commenced work preparatory to inviting tenders for the first part of the Scheme.

The need for new sewage works and part renewal of the sewerage system is urgent and it is hoped that the Ministry will do all in it's power to secure the early completion of the whole scheme.

However, your Officers are particularly concerned over the surcharging of sewers in the Sutton Lane and Cledford areas. In times of heavy rain, foul sewage is deposited in this area due to flooding. The relief of storm water in the Cledford area is also causing increasing concern. These are serious matters and every effort should be made to speed the administrative and technical work necessary to provide an immediate remedy.

(3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

There are still 6 pail closets in the district and since they are considerable distances from the sewers they cannot be converted to a water carriage system until the new sewerage scheme is carried out.

(4) PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public conveniences are situated in Leadsmithy Street, and at the rear of Victoria Building.

(5) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of refuse prevailed for the whole of the year. The Council buys and sells dustbins with rubber lids and during the period 124 such bins were sold. This service is of great help in assuring that each house has a proper bin which can be easily brought out and emptied. All bins are collected from the premises for emptying and returned afterwards. Collection of refuse is by two carrier dual tip vehicles, the last one to be purchased has also a compression plate.

An adequate quantity of soil was available for cover on the Council's tip at Croxton where free tipping is also provided for builder's debris and garden refuse. In addition the Council collects, free of charge, all surplus and obsolete items of furniture.

Salvage is kept separate and in the year a total of almost 150 tons of paper was baled and sold. Income for the year was £1,204 8s. 8d. of which 10% was shared amongst the workmen.

(6) STREET CLEANSING

The Surveyor reports that the Johnston Suction Sweeper continues to give good service, the sweeping of all streets being on a rota system.

(7) PETROLEUM STORAGE

Twenty-three licences were issued for the bulk storage of petroleum. All installations were inspected during the year. One tank ceased to be used and was emptied and made safe.

HOUSING

Provision of New Houses

49 private houses were completed during the year, 30 of the owners came from outside the area. There were no Council houses completed but progress was being made on 8 houses to re-place families from temporary pre-fabs which are to be demolished. A scheme has been approved for permanent 'Kencast' bungalows to be erected on the site of the temporary pre-fabs.

Loan sanction is still awaited for a flatlet scheme for elderly people on the Warmingham Lane estate.

Housing in General

There is no known overcrowding in the district. The average number of persons per dwelling is 2.98 which is slightly higher than last year.

In the past 10 years 613 private dwellings and 84 Council dwellings have been completed giving a net increase of 531 after allowing for slum clearance. In the same period the population has increased by 1,030 from 6,880 in 1956 to 7,910 in 1966. This increase in population is more than double that of the previous 10 years, but the growth in the near future is likely to be less until the new sewage scheme is completed.

During the year the Council made loans on 38 dwellings under the Housing (Financial Provision) Act 1958, seven standard and two discretionary grants were made.

Slum Clearance

Since 1948 a total of 161 dwellings have been condemned and demolished, while 39 other houses, mainly sub-standard have been demolished after informal action or converted to other approved uses. In addition a block of 6 houses in Brooks Lane which were sub-standard have been demolished for road widening purposes. A futher block of 6 houses in the same area are to be demolished after the last remaining family has been re-housed. There are still 2 families to be re-housed from Wych-House Lane out of a block of 4 on which voluntary undertakings to demolish were accepted. The acquisition of sub-standard property in Kinderton Street for road widening was completed and 2 families were re-housed, leaving 2 others still to be dealt with.

House Letting

The Council has a 'Points' scheme for the selection of tenants for Council houses. During 1966 only one family was taken from the 'waiting' list' the remainder of the re-lets being to families from Brooks Lane, Kinderton Street and the temporary pre-fabs which are to be demolished. At the end of the year there was a 'waiting list' of 82 local persons of whom only 21 were from families sharing houses, the remainder being tenants.

Problem Families

A number of meetings were held when problem families were discussed with representatives of other interested organisations. The number in the district is very small and some progress is reported.

Housing Notices complied with:-

Repairs to defective drains	4
Repairs to defective closets	5
Repairs to roofs	3
Repairs to plasterwork	2
Provision of dustbins	124

It is interesting to note the very few complaints received since the completion of the main part of the slum clearance programme. The increase in home ownerhip and the making of grants has also contributed to this improvement.

Caravan Sites.

There are no caravan sites in the district. During the year several unauthorised caravans were removed from sites in each case before prosecution took place.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are no Pet Shops Licensed in the district.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

One dealer is registered under this Act.

Destruction of Rats and Mice

All Business Premises, Farms and most dwellings were inspected at least once and treatments given as required. Treatments at Business Premises are charged for, but private dwellings are treated free of cost.

A test baiting of 15% of all sewer manholes was made in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and in no case was there any "take".

Very few complaints of rodent infestation were received during the year.

Smoke Abatement

The Alkali Inspectorate have, since 1958, been responsible for control over smoke and grit emissions from furnaces used in the production of salt by the "open pan method". More of the open pans were closed during the year and there are now only a few in operation.

After consultation with the Ministry of Fuel and Power, National Institute of Fuel Economy Service and various Manufacturers of Furnace Equipment a firm producing large quantities of wood waste installed apparatus designed to prevent the emission of smoke from their plant. This was successful in preventing the emission of smoke but unfortunately caused four fires on the works in a few weeks. For the remainder of the year work proceeded on adaptations to the plant and while the emission of smoke has been considerable reduced there is still some black smoke at certain times. Investigations and experiments are continuing on this matter.

SECTION VI

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1.2.3.4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced the Local Authority.	51	14	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	6	5	-	-
Total	57	19	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

OUTWORKERS

There are no outworkers registered with the Authority.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			Referred		
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	2	-

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The Act applies to 67 premises in the district, all of which have been registered. These premises employ a total of 59 males and 130 females. 19 visits were made in connection with this Act but some inspections are still outstanding.

SECTION VII

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK

16 dealers are registered in the district under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

The following tables show the results of tests on samples of milk taken by the County Council.

TABLE 1.

Type of Test	Taken by C. C.	
	Satis.	Unsatis.
1. Methylene Blue	52	2
2. Phosphatase	56	-
3. Turbidity	5	-

1. Measures the keeping quality of the milk.

2. Measures the efficiency of the Pasteurisation process.

3. Measures the efficiency of the Sterilising process.

TABLE 2.

		Taken by C. C.	
		Bulk	Ind.
Brucella	Negative	1	-
Brucella	Positive	-	-
Tubercular	Negative	1	-
Tubercular	Positive	-	-

Only a small quantity of raw milk is sold in the district and this is subject to regular sampling in the Northwich Rural District Council area.

(b) ICE-CREAM

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district and the only ice-cream sold is pre-wrapped. 7 samples were taken in the district and were submitted to the Chester Public Health Laboratory. These were satisfactory and placed in the Provisional Grades as follows:

Provisional Grade 1 .. 4

Provisional Grade 2 .. 3

(c) MEAT

The only slaughterhouse in the district is at Newton Hall. These premises are well maintained in accordance with the Construction and Hygiene Regulations. Veterinary Inspectors from the Ministry of Agriculture made a number of visits and were satisfied with conditions there. Under the Meat Regulations all meat passed for human consumption must carry the Council's stamp.

119 visits of inspection were made in the year and Inspectors of the Northwich Rural District deputised for 2 weeks during the holidays of the Middlewich Public Health Inspector. This co-operation and help is greatly appreciated.

Inspection charges for the year amounted to £88 - 6s. - 6d.

No horses are slaughtered in the district.

Tables of Carcases and Offal

Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	11	123	1,033	4	873
Number inspected	11	123	1,033	4	873
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI					
Whole carcases condemned	3	4	20	-	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	28	5	-	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	45.45%	26.02%	2.42%	-	1.37%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
CYSTICERCOSIS					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticerci	-	0.81%	-	-	-

It is pleasing to note that once again there was no evidence of Tuberculosis in any of the annimals slaughtered -- a tribute to the Ministry's efforts to eradicate this disease.

(d) Poultry Inspection:-

(i)	Number of poultry processing premises within the district.	1
(ii)	Number of visits to these premises.	21
(iii)	Total number of birds processed during the year.	156,000
(iv)	Types of birds processed.	Broilers
(v)	Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption.	4%
(vi)	Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption.	Approx. 7tons
(vii)	Number of killing days per week.	3
(viii)	Comments on poultry processing and inspection.	

The department was satisfied that the processing, scrutinisation and grading procedures adopted by the Company were satisfactory. After killing and dressing the birds are kept in cold storage until they are despatched in non-returnable boxes. Reject birds and offal are taken away for processing into animal feeding stuffs etc. and the feathers are collected from the premises twice weekly. In considering the effectiveness of the scrutinisation and inspection processes it is of interest to note that no adverse report or complaint concerning the poultry processed at this factory was received during the year.

The attention of the operators has been drawn to the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, and the recommendations of the Codes of Practice on poultry dressing and packing. Work is in hand to secure full compliance with the regulations.

Although only 21 visits were made in 1966, visits are now being made twice weekly.

Unsound Food

Condemnation notes were issued in respect of 3 tins of meat.

Disposal of Unsound Food

Condemned meat at the Slaughterhouse is stained green and then sold for animal feeding stuffs via an approved agent. Condemned foods at shops are collected and buried at the refuse tip.

Food Premises

The undermentioned food premises are in use in the Middlewich District.

Schedule of premises subject to Regs. 16 & 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

	Number	Complying with Reg. 16.	Reg. 19 applies	Complying with Reg. 19.
Butchers Shops	7	7	7	7
Bakehouses	4	4	4	4
Schools	4	4	4	4
Fish and Chip Shops	5	5	5	5
Grocery Shops	31	31	31	31
Fresh Fish Shops	2	2	2	2
Chocolates and Sweets	6	6	-	-
Public Houses	15	15	-	-
Clubs and Licenced Bars	4	4	-	-
Greengrocers	4	4	-	-
Chemist Shops	2	2	-	-
Slaughterhouses	1	(Complies with Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations).		

These descriptions only indicate the main type of food sold in each shop.

Registered Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

For retail sale of wrapped ice-cream	26
For retail sale of sausages, meat pies, etc.	15
Dairies registered under Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1959-60	1
Registered Milk Dealers	16

All bakehouses and food premises are regularly inspected and are well maintained.

MEAT SAMPLES

5 samples of various meat products were taken and sent for bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory.

OTHER FOODS

The County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors took samples of 40 varied articles of food in the Middlewich Urban District during 1966. The following 1 sample was not up to standard:-

Sample	Remarks
Bread	Contaminated with mould - Vendor cautioned.

F. SEYMOUR.

Medical Officer of Health.

F. COSTELLO.

Public Health Inspector.